

AMIAA News

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Thousands of Survivors Attended the Ecumenical Memorial Service at Arlington National Cemetery on April 28. The Service was part of the week long commemorative program organized by the National Commemorative Committee to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

REFLECTIONS ON SCHOLARSHIP MATTERS

—John Keuhnelian, M.D.*



John G. Keuhnelian, M.D.

As Chairman of the AMAA Scholarship Committee for over a decade, I have been asked to reflect on my experiences and the value of our scholarship program. A portion of these comments is historical fact; some represent personal viewpoints and should not necessarily be construed as official policy.

The by-laws of the AMAA include in their raison d'être a sub-paragraph: "to encourage religious, educational, literary and philanthropic work", etc. From its outset the founders of this organization realized the value of a formal education. A formal education not only prepares one to better face the problems of life, but also teaches that person the discipline to continue his or her self-education after the structured schooling process has been completed.

During the fifties an active child-education scholarship program was established which has, and continues to subsidize schooling overseas regardless of religious affiliation. These efforts have been the

*John Keuhnelian, M.D., is the East Coast Vice President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). He has previously served the AMAA in various important positions and capacities, including as President, several terms as Board Member, Assistant Treasurer, and as the Chairman or active member of important committees such as the Executive, Scholarship, By-laws, Managers of Endowment Fund, Publications, and others.

catalyst for over 10,000 children to receive secondary school education which may have otherwise been denied them. Our educational activities took a quantum leap forward with the launching of Haigazian College in Beirut some 30 years ago. This four-year college provides higher education for worthy students, again without respect to religious affiliation. With substantial scholarship support from the AMAA, students receive an education which otherwise would be totally out of their reach.

During the early seventies some of our Board Members began to take a second look at our goals and outreach. Our overseas support was substantial (and not always appreciated). Should we not address ourselves to needs at home also? One of the fruits of this dialogue was the establishment of our Scholarship Committee in 1973.

The following year 20 scholarships were granted of which seven were to theological students. The latter were part of an ongoing program which was incorporated into the activities of the committee. During the ensuing decade our Scholarship project has mushroomed (although exploded would be more accurate). Last year \$183,500 was granted and/or loaned to 198 students, of which 21 were theologically oriented.

What have I learned during this past decade?

1. To give money away wisely is difficult.
2. To stay within an allotted budget is even more difficult.

Since this committee was organized, tuition fees have risen sharply; with federal budgetary constraints, governmental loans and grants are harder to obtain. Education of a son or daughter places a significant strain on the average family income. The problem has been compounded since the inception of the never-ending Lebanese civil war with youth emigrating to this country, whose parental funds have been tied up or have disappeared. All in all, I have been impressed over the years by the number and quality of truly worthwhile applicants who have requested assistance. Consequently, with budgetary limitations I believe we

can accomplish more by helping as many good applicants as possible rather than directing large amounts to a selected few. We do not have the capacity to allot as much as we would like to each applicant. We must perforce reject some very good applicants regretfully. We still end up over budget consistently and somehow manage to find extra money somewhere. I think this is a worthwhile form of deficit financing!

Finally, I wish to discuss the merits of outright grants versus interest-free loans. Scholarship grant money is supplied by the interest and dividends earned by endowed funds. Consequently, a relatively large amount of capital is required to produce these monies. On the other hand, this capital remains inviolate and is available to produce revenue for the support of future students.

I personally encourage the concept of revolving loan funds. All the principal is immediately available to be put to use. The drawback, of course, in this approach is that some loans may not be repaid for one reason or another, thus decreasing the principal and subsequently affecting future generations adversely. I must say, to the credit of our applicants, that our experience on repayment to date has been rather good. In addition, some former recipients have subsequently made generous contributions to our Association. I do think that students should be willing to take on loans in addition to outright grants. Every now and then I am faced with a stated or implied attitude by a parent or student that the AMAA "owes me". Fortunately, this situation has occurred rarely. I resent and decry this attitude vigorously.

The paper work and clerical responsibilities of our Scholarship Program have added a new dimension of headache in the AMAA offices. I need not dwell on the expanded workload involved in the sorting, tabulating, and study of over 300 applications annually. The amount of time spent by the members of the Scholarship Committee is significant. In my opinion, on balance, the assistance we have been able to provide to literally hundreds of students during this past decade has been well worth the effort.

GOVERNOR DEUKMEJIAN'S IMPASSIONED SPEECH ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

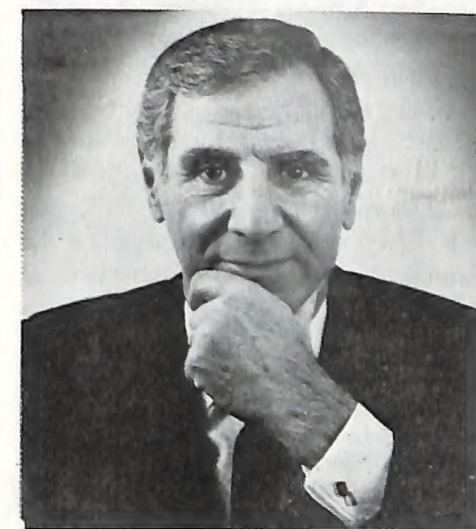
Editor's Note: In April 1985, the Armenian community of North America observed the 70th Anniversary of the Genocide with unprecedented involvement and patriotic zeal. The many and varied commemorative events held in different parts of the country were by far the most creative, impressive and dignified observances ever organized in tribute to our 1.5 million martyrs. Noteworthy were the symposiums and conferences held in academic circles; the rally in the Times Square in New York City, the demonstrations in Los Angeles, CA and Ottawa, Canada; the Ecumenical Memorial Services with the participation of non-Armenian religious personalities; and the many exhibits on Armenian culture.

Outstanding among the commemorative events was the week-long memorial rally of Washington, D.C. organized by the National Commemorative Committee, Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, President, and jointly sponsored by the Prelacy of the Armenian Church, the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical communities, and the Armenian Missionary Association of America. The rally, which drew more than 7500 survivors and their children, was high-

lighted by carefully planned conferences, exhibits, concerts, lectures, ecumenical memorial services and an impressive banquet on Saturday, April 27. The banquet, which was attended by more than 2500 people, featured the California Governor, George Deukmejian, as Keynote Speaker. Below is the full text of Governor Deukmejian's impassioned address, which represents the prophetic declaration of a man who personifies the rebirth of our people and our commitment to our land and nation:

It is a great personal honor for me to participate in this special evening of remembrance and thanksgiving. I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Eminence Archbishop Ashjian and the National Commemorative Committee for your personal commitment and leadership. I would also like to thank each one of you for being here to share in this tribute.

As Governor of California, I issued a proclamation declaring Wednesday, April 24th as a Day of Remembrance in our State to honor all victims of genocide, especially 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children who were driven



Governor George Deukmejian

from their homes and massacred in the first genocide of this century. I also ordered that all flags over state buildings be flown at half-mast. Both of these actions were taken with the full support of our state legislature, in tribute to the innocent victims who lost their lives. I am deeply disappointed that our government in Washington would not pay the same tribute.

It is disturbing that our humane and free nation will not stand up for truth and

The Inspirational Corner

A CHRISTIAN HOME

"Is this yours, Mabel?" I asked quietly.

"It is now," she answered. "It used to be grandfather's."

"Do you read it much?"

"Every day," she said.

I was thumbing the pages through, and trying to find words for an idea that was taking shape in my mind.

"You know," I finally said, "we always used to have worship at home. I was brought up that way."

"So was I," she answered softly.

"I always liked it."

"I did, too."

"We're just starting our home, Mabel," I said after a while. "It seems to me it would be nice if we could plan for worship night and morning. How would you feel about it?"

"I'd be glad if we could."

"You would really be pleased?"

"Yes. Arthur, I would."

"Would you like to start tonight?"

"Yes, tonight."

We sat down, and I turned the pages till I found a Scripture; I don't know what the verses were. I've often wondered, and wished I could recall them. I read, and then we knelt side by side, and both prayed to God to make us a strength and help to each other in doing His will, and to make our home a blessing.

That was the way we started our married life many years ago. We kept up the morning and evening prayers all through our married life, and God surely did reward us.

Now I am alone except for three of our five children. The other two sleep with their mother, and we who remain are waiting to see them at the coming of the Life-giver.

—HOPE

(From the Christian Statesman)

justice. The Armenian genocide is an indisputable historical fact. There is nothing ambiguous about it.

We recognize that Turkey is a military ally of the United States. But a mature society should be able to admit its past mistakes. America has admitted that she was grievously wrong to have once supported a system of racial slavery. West Germany has expressed great remorse for its past support of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi system that perpetrated the killing of six million Jews.

It's time that Turkey admit its role in the Armenian genocide. And it's time that the Administration and the Congress stop buckling under the Turkish pressure to deny this simple historical truth.

I think you are aware of my many years of friendship with President Reagan. I have great respect for him and I have enthusiastically supported most of his policies. I know him to be a man of compassion and sensitivity.

Last week, I wrote to the President, and would like to share some of my letter with you tonight:

"Mr. President, Armenian-Americans have appreciated your expressions of understanding and concern about the fate of our families and ancestors. That is why we are disappointed and disturbed by your recent response to a question posed by Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet* and by your Administration's continued opposition to Congressional efforts to recognize April 24th as a National Day of Remembrance.

"The suggestion that a National Day of Remembrance for genocide victims would, in any way, encourage or reward terrorist attacks is unjustified. Armenians are peaceful, law-abiding people who totally reject and deplore the violent acts of a handful of terrorists. Honoring the memory of genocide victims would not be a victory for violence. It would be a simple, eloquent statement against violence."

The President telephoned me on Thursday evening. He said that he wanted me to know that his long feelings regarding the events that occurred in 1915 had not changed, but that his advisors were concerned about the impact that the Proclamation would have on our relations with Turkey. He told me that he has asked his people to look into the situation to determine what he may be able to do.

Mr. President, I pray that you will consider your current position and take action to affirm the historical truth, as you have stated it in the past, by issuing a public statement and by instructing the State Department and the Department of Defense to support the pending congressional resolutions.

Thus far, our prayers have not been answered. But may I suggest that we do not give up hope, that we keep on praying that the President and Congress will join us in this recognition. I assure you that I will not stop praying and I will not stop speaking out, until they do.

Some may ask us, why should we be so concerned about a tragedy which occurred 70 years ago? The answer lies in the events that have happened since 1915 and occur up to the present day.

A new generation — a new genocide. That has been the tragic history of this century. Perhaps if the world had not largely ignored this century's first genocide in Armenia — if it had not allowed those crimes to go unanswered — then just maybe some of these later tragedies might have been prevented.

We'll never know for sure whether the course of history would have been changed. But one thing we do know for sure — if the civilized world continues to be silent, this cycle of horrors will go on repeating itself over and over again.

So yes, we must remember not only to honor our loved ones who died, but also to heed the lessons of that sorrow so that we can build a safer and more humane future for all the world's children.

There's something else I believe we should do. This is an occasion for solemn remembrance, but let it also be a day of joyous celebration. Tonight, we gather together as free people. We speak our minds, we worship our God and we can even criticize our government right here in the seat of its power.

As Armenians, we have survived because our parents and ancestors gave us the strength and the faith to survive, but we have triumphed because of this great, beautiful and free land called America.

Thank God, we live in the freest, most prosperous and most tolerant nation on earth — a land where people of incredible diversity can live peacefully, side by side.

Each of us tonight is living proof of the fullness of the American dream. Where

else but in America could the son of Armenian immigrants grow up and become Governor of the most populous state in the greatest country on earth?

So may I suggest that as we honor our families and loved ones who died, as we continue to speak out about this and all other violations of basic human rights, that we also give thanks for the countless blessings of our new homeland.

As William Saroyan wrote so eloquently, "I should like to see any power in this world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people whose history is ended, whose wars have been fought and lost, whose structures have crumbled, whose literature is unread, whose music is unheard and whose prayers are no more answered. Go ahead, destroy this race! Destroy Armenia! See if you can do it. Send them from their homes and churches. Then, see if they will not laugh again, see if they will not sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia."

God Bless you and thank you very much.



NEW ADDRESS OF AMAA WEST COAST REGIONAL OFFICE

The West Coast Regional Office of the Armenian Missionary Association of America was recently moved to:

6850 Van Nuys Boulevard
Suite 307
Van Nuys, CA 91405

The new telephone number of the office is:

(818) 782 - 0259

Office hours are Monday through Friday,
9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

When you are in the neighborhood, give our West Coast Regional Director, Mr. Jack Loussarian, and our Secretary, Miss Maida Artinian, the pleasure of welcoming you in our offices.

AMAA/AEUNA HONOR GOVERNOR AND MRS. GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN



Guests at the head table, left to right: Dr. Rendel Levonian; Mrs. George Deukmejian; Gov. George Deukmejian; Attorney Huston Carlyle; and former District Attorney, Robert Philibosian and his wife.

Saturday May 4, 1985 was a special day for the Armenian Evangelical Community of the United States in general and of California in particular when the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) presented jointly a gala banquet to honor California's outstanding Governor and Mrs. George Deukmejian.

Over Five Hundred guests, mostly Armenian Evangelicals, had filled the beautifully decorated Paul Avazian Hall of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, Calif. At 6:15 p.m. the Governor and his gracious wife, Gloria, arrived in the Hall followed by dignitaries and program participants to a standing ovation. On the wall behind the head-table were posters with the words: COURAGE. . . CONVICTION. . . CONFIDENCE. . . taken from the Governor's speech given at the National Prayer Breakfast earlier this year.

After the singing of the National Anthem by bass baritone, Arthur Tookoyan, accompanied at the piano by Gloria Mikalian, and the Invocation given by the Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Pastor of the U.A.C.C., Huston Carlyle Sr., Chairman of the Banquet Committee, welcomed the guests and wished them an enjoyable evening.

A delicious shish-kebab dinner with all the trimmings was prepared by chef Mat-

sie and his crew, who served the guests family style with great efficiency.

Then Mr. Carlyle introduced Robert Philibosian, Esq., former District Attorney of Los Angeles, as the Master of Ceremonies of the banquet. Mr. Philibosian described very eloquently the purpose of the evening, introduced the head-table and recognized the presence of leaders of the Armenian Evangelical Community who were attending the banquet from far and near.

The program included musical selections by Vatche Mankarian, pianist, and by the Armenian String Quartet of Los Angeles. Arthur Tookoyan sang "Let there be Peace on Earth." The Rev. Harry Missirlian, Minister to the Unions conveyed the greetings and well wishes of the AEUNA. Dr. G. H. Chopourian, speaking on behalf of the President and Board Members of the AMAA, delivered the following message:

Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle,
Honorable Governor & Mrs. George Deukmejian,
Distinguished Clergy,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure and privilege to extend the special greetings of the President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Professor Nazar Daghljan, and all the members of the Board of Directors who hail from four countries and seven U.S. States.



Gov. George Deukmejian addressing the guests at the banquet.



Mrs. Alice Haig presenting a Lalique Vase/Statue to Mrs. George Deukmejian.



AMAA Executive Director, Dr. G.H. Chopourian, conveying the greetings of the President and the entire membership of the AMAA.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE UNVEILED IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTORIA SHEEN

On a cool morning on May 10, a plaque-unveiling ceremony took place in the presence of the 180 students, faculty, and staff of the Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian School of Pasadena, attended by AMAA representatives, Mr. Hagop Lousararian and Dr. G. H. Chopourian, about thirty guests representing various school boards and committees and benefactor John Sheen, who supported the purchase of the school campus with a pledge of \$350,000.



Dr. G.H. Chopourian delivering Mr. John Sheen's address to students and guests.

Following the recitation by students of the "Pledge of Allegiance," the singing of "Hayr Mer" and "Let There Be Peace," and short Armenian and English speeches addressed to Mr. Sheen by two seventh graders, the plaque was unveiled. Then, Dr. G. H. Chopourian, Executive Director of the AMAA, read the text of the message expressed to him by Mr. Sheen.

Mr. Sheen's message was as follows:
"Dear Little Ones and Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"I am very happy to be with you this morning. I am glad you saw the unveiling of the plaque dedicated to my wife and parents. The Bible commands that we 'Honor our Father and Mother.' The plaque is to honor them.

"I have sometimes been asked: 'Why do you give away all of your wealth —

almost all?' The answer is in my life story.

"I have considered myself to have been lucky. You all know about the Armenian genocide. In 1915, the Turkish Government drove the Armenians out of their villages and homes into the deserts and more than one million were killed. My

own father was one of those killed. But in 1913 I had already left Turkey at the age of 18. I have always felt that God saved me from that hell for a purpose.

The Benefactor, Mr. Sheen, with the representatives of the beneficiaries, the students of Sahag Mesrob School.

"At age 15, before I got out of Turkey, I asked my father, 'Dad, the congregation of this beautiful church, with high pillars and a great dome, is small. How did they manage to build it?' His answer impressed me. He said, 'A generous benefactor son, the father of Hovsep and Minas, had it built as a gift.'

"I remember telling my father, 'Dad, if God blesses me and I have money when I grow up, I would like to do something like that.'

"God helped me to have more money than I needed for my living expenses, but I helped God to help me — I worked very, very hard. My factory built pews, lecterns, altars and other furniture for churches — for over 150 churches. In time I went into private, personal real estate work in which I had some lucky investments. I worked hard to fulfill my dream and my promise to my dad.

"Between 1966 and 1969 I worked with the AMAA to build a church sanctuary in Beirut (Sin el Fil). This was followed by a church in an American Indian Reservation. Then, a little church in Asiatic India with wells dug for water which the villagers called 'Jacobs Wells,' remembering Jacob, the son of Isaac. In Jordan, near the Jordan River, I helped build a few rooms. I also helped encourage education. I provided a large sum for Biola University's administrative

building and for an American Indian administrative building in Arizona.

"I feel so happy I kept my pledge to my dad and I hope to do more because as I 'spooned out money, God shoveled it in.'

"Some years ago, my minister challenged me to tithe (that means to give one-tenth of one's income to God) and asked me if I followed the Bible teaching of tithing. I answered, 'No, I don't Tithe.' He was shocked and looked at me with pity. I continued and said, 'Pastor, I don't tithe. I only take one-tenth for my living and give the nine-tenths to God.' Another time, I heard a minister advise, 'One must be a generous giver since one cannot take his wealth with him!' I surprised him by contradicting him. I said, 'I'll take everything with me at death because I'll give everything away.'

"Why do I do so?"

"Because of what Christ did for me. He sacrificed himself, shed His blood, to save me. What I do is very little in comparison. That is why I am happy when I give. That's why I tried to help Sahag/Mesrob. I desired that you children have a school where you would learn about Christ.

"While I'm happy when I give, my greatest happiness began when I accepted Jesus as my Friend.

"I hope you will learn to have Him as your friend.

"God bless you."

Principal of the school, Mrs. Alahaydoian, whose students had earlier participated with two Armenian songs and individual recitations of Psalm 23 and 121 by two others, challenged them to follow Mr. Sheen's example on growing up.

One of the seventh graders, after stating how grateful all the students were to Mr. Sheen, stated, "Every day this building reminds us of your kindness. . . Here at Sahag/Mesrob we are learning day by day more about our Lord Jesus Christ. . . We honor the memory of your wife. . ." The second seventh grader quoted Napoleon's words, "He who opens a school closes a prison," and added, "He who opens an Armenian school educates a nation." The grateful student assured the benefactor that they were learning to be "good persons, good Armenians and good Christians."

Mr. Youssefian, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sahag Mesrob, thanked Mr. Sheen for his love of the Lord and the children and asked him to

unveil the plaque. Following a prayer of thanks by the Rev. Vahram Touryan, the guests were invited for refreshments prepared by the P.T.A., including a cake that said, "Sahag-Mesrob School Thanks God for Mr. Sheen."

This day will be long remembered by all present, but especially by the students, who will undoubtedly be inspired continuously by the text on the plaque:

"This campus is dedicated for the proclamation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ providing the children of our community a Christ-centered education with Armenian Heritage and Culture until the day of His personal return in glory. Given in loving memory of Victoria Sheen by her husband, John H. Sheen (Geovkalayjian), fourth day of May, the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-five."

THE REV. KRIKOR DEMIRJIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Greece has established the Rev. Krikor Demirjian Memorial Fund to honor the late pastor. The Fund, which pays tribute to Rev. Demirjian's lifelong and selfless services to the Armenian community of Greece, is designated for:

- Evangelism Ministries;
- Publication of the sermons of the late pastor; and
- Educational work.

To receive further information or to send a memorial gift in remembrance of the Rev. Demirjian, please contact:

The Armenian Missionary Association of America
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652
Telephone: (201) 265-2607;
265-2608

All donations to the Memorial Fund are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to AMAA, Inc.

AMAA/AEUNA HONOR (cont. from page 5)

Your very important contribution to us Armenians, your devoted compatriots, may be summed up in this slogan: "You enabled us to stand taller." Not only because you were elected to the governorship of the most-populated State of the Union, but due to your—

1. Able and firm leadership;
2. "Taming" of the State's Budget which even budget-watcher former Governor, and now our President, was not able to do as well, and increasing provisions for education and human services at the same time;
3. Integrity of character;
4. Acknowledgement that your upbringing in the Christian Armenian tradition of family solidarity, mutual loving relationships, honesty, fairness, justice and peace are pillars upon which you base your life, work and actions;
5. Being viewed, as the Forbes Magazine article observed, "as Presidential

Timber."

The Psalmist wrote: "Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season."

This will be AMAA's prayer for you, dear Governor: May God make the fruits of your labors abundant and the harvests a hundred fold.

Mrs. Haig made a special presentation to the Governor and Mrs. Deukmejian: a Jerusalem Bible with mother-of-pearl cover, and a lalique vase/statue of two doves representing peace.

The highlight of the evening was of course the Governor's speech. After an excellent introduction by Dr. Rendel Levonian describing him as a "true gentleman," the Governor took to the podium to another standing ovation. In his speech, he praised the AEUNA and AMAA for decades of service they have rendered to the Armenian Community as

THE EYEWITNESS STORY OF "THE FORTY DAYS OF MUSA DAGH"

—Alexander A. Antrasian

PART II

(Continued from April issue of the AMAA NEWS)



The Rev. Dikran Andreasian, the Chairman of the Defense Council of the people of Musa Dagh.



Musa Dagh Martyrs' Memorial Monument on top of Mt. Musa Dagh.

of it. Its English translation reads:

"1. Within seven days, everyone should arrange his personal affairs and provide for his family's transportation.

2. On the way to your destination, full protection will be provided by accompanying gendarmes against any robbery or disturbing of the peace, and the comfort of the travelers will be guaranteed.

3. For poor people, who cannot provide their transportation and food, the government will make special arrangements.

4. Whatever you have to leave behind will be listed and put in a safe place and will be protected. Eventually they will be sold and the proceeds will be sent to its rightful owners.

5. All those who are deported, when they reach their destination, will be settled and made comfortable.

6. Under my chairmanship a committee has been appointed. This committee will see to it that your personal rights will be defended and all possessions that you leave behind will be listed in books.

7. All those who are subject to deportation should trust the government and cooperate in every way, and other Turkish citizens should honor the rights of those who are being deported. Those rights are guaranteed by the government.

This deportation will be a simple moving from one place to another.

8. I announce that anyone, from the deportees or those in charge of them, who doesn't do what is expected of him shall be arrested and courtmartialed.

Mayor of Antioch,
Maarouf"

Our deporters to be did not say a word about where they were going to deport us to, or why?

The hour of action had arrived. No other meeting was necessary. My native Yoghounolouk and also nearby Khedir Bey, Vakuf and Ezzair during the next seven days, almost spontaneously started their movement upward towards the top of Musa Dagh. It was a tragic and yet most wonderful scene.

Have you ever watched the ants, the way they transport loads from one place to another? Men, women and children, each carrying something, were moving upward. Before the seven days were over, the moving operation was completed in our four villages. Eventually there was a very good representation that joined us from Haji Habible and Bitias. The minority decided to submit to the order. Kaboosieh almost totally went the other way.

The people settled in four different

camps each half a mile or one mile away from the other.

On August 7, when the representatives from the four camps were meeting in a central place, a messenger arrived from one of the fronts with the news that a couple of hundred soldiers were on their way up. The meeting immediately arranged to send reinforcements. Our men, up to this time, hadn't had their baptism of fire. One of them had asked my brother, "Are we going to shoot them now?" My brother answered "yes, of course, only be careful you aim right. We can't afford to waste ammunition." That confrontation lasted six hours. We think the enemy had five or six casualties. We had none.

After that encounter we had a couple of days of peace. That time was utilized to organize, dig trenches, and cut down certain sections of the forest to make the enemy more visible in certain strategic places.

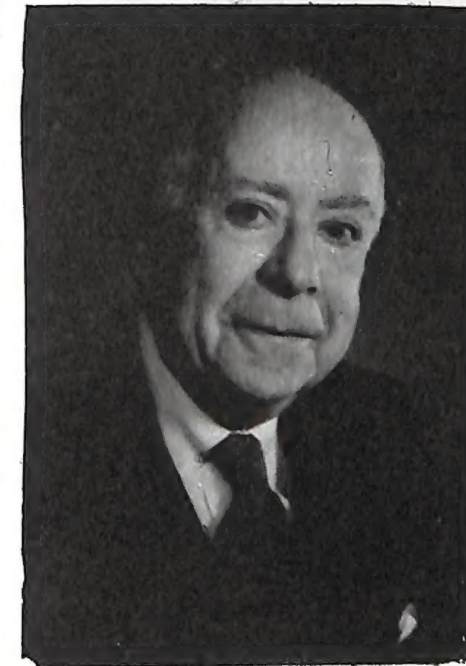
Committees were elected to meet the needs of each camp.

The enemy was determined, and didn't want to leave us alone.

On August 10th, at sunrise, the enemy appeared again, this time from another direction. This wasn't to be a skirmish. This was the real thing. This time it was a much larger force, estimated to be more than 2000 regulars. Our border guards, about 15 men, seeing the size of the enemy force, started retreating. When reinforcements arrived, they made a determined attack on the invaders and checked their advance.

Unfortunately, about the middle of the day it started raining, and raining hard. Our fighters were drenched to the bones. But that was the least of their troubles. As a result of the rain, about 75% of their fire arms were unusable. The enemy did not have that trouble. Their rifles were more modern and waterproof. This time the enemy had two small caliber cannons also. They made a big bang that terrified the people back in the camps. One of our sharp shooters, from a strategic position nearby, was able to eliminate the gunner and his three replacements, thus silencing the cannons. But the battle and the rain continued the whole day. When night came the enemy was still there. When morning arrived, however, they had disappeared. We heaved a sigh of relief.

ARTHUR DADIAN: A HUMBLE BENEFACTOR



Arthur Dadian

Mr. Arthur Dadian has not appeared in the roster of well known and publicly acclaimed benefactors of our community so far, but is worthy of an honorable seat among them. He deserves the honor not only because of his generous charitable gifts to causes represented by Armenian religious and educational organizations, but more importantly because of his sincere wishes for a sound and healthy Armenian community.

Because of his humble and unassuming personality, Mr. Dadian has always avoided publicity regarding his benevolences. Recently, however, the Executive Director of the AMAA, Dr. G. H. Chopourian, succeeded in convincing Mr. Dadian to accept a release for the purpose of inspiring others through his testimony of good stewardship arising out

The rain had soaked all our people and everything that they possessed, but God had mercy on us. The following day the life giving sun was shining all day, drying everything. Our casualties in the previous day's encounter were three wounded and two killed. It was estimated that the enemy's casualties were no less than 100.

(To be continued in the August issue of the AMAA NEWS)

of his concerns for the well-being of the Armenian community.

Mr. Dadian, indeed, is a person with an unusual spirit of liberality and an Armenian with rare sensitivity to our community needs and aspirations. These qualities have found expression through Mr. Dadian's life-long interest in our community for which he has worked silently but effectively in high political circles, and through his charitable gifts. Mr. Dadian's most recent donations to Armenian organizations include: \$25,000 to the Armenian Church Endowment Fund for the St. Nersess Seminary; \$5,000 for the office operations of Diocesan delegate Bishop Papken Varjabedian of Washington, D.C.; and \$40,000 to the AMAA. In making these gifts, Mr. Dadian said, "It is a pleasure and a most fulfilling act to help, in a small way, in the worthy projects of the Armenian community and in the training of our future American-Armenian leaders."

Mr. Dadian is deeply concerned with the training of under-privileged youth. Undoubtedly, it was this concern that led him, two years ago, to establish *The Arthur A. Dadian Educational Fund* of \$15,000 with the AMAA, the annual income from which is allocated as interest-free loans and/or outright grants to needy and worthy Armenian college students in America preparing for a practical profession or a trade, such as, computer programming and servicing, etc.

Mr. Dadian's loving compassion for underprivileged youth and children also led him to establish a second Endowment Fund with the AMAA, the total of which is now \$25,000. This Fund, which is called the *Arthur H. Dadian Child Education Sponsorship Fund* provides for the education of the children of poor Armenian families in Lebanon.

Humility, indeed, is one of the charms of Mr. Dadian who deserves the love and tribute of the Armenian Community of North America. With his liberality, universality and rare human qualities, the Humble Benefactor from Washington, D.C. is a true source of inspiration to all those who have had the privilege of knowing him personally.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD: EGYPT

The Reverend Bernard Guekguezian returned from a group tour he had organized and reported on his visit to the Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church of Cairo. We are grateful to him for updating us on evangelical church life in Egypt.

There are two evangelical churches still operating, but not at the level of their former glories during pre-Nasser days. Cairo's population runs to 16 million during the day and 12 million at night, while Alexandria counts a population of 2 million. The following chart shows roughly the count of the Armenian population:

City	Past	Present Day
Cairo	20,000	5,000
Alexandria	10,000	2,000

I. The Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church of Cairo

The Cairo Church has had distinguished and able ministerial and lay leadership. The Reverend Hampartoumian provided a progressive Christian ministry for 25 years or more. The Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian served for 3 to 4 years, and the Rev. Manuel Jimbashian, 2 years. At the present, Mr. Vahram Khounagian, a lay evangelist, supplies the pulpits both of Cairo and Alexandria on a volunteer basis. Mr. Khounagian, whose son is a dentist and the daughter an English language teacher, sold his business to give himself to full-time evangelism.

One grand layman is Mr. Avedis Tchakejian, under whose leadership, support and inspiration a beautiful stone structure in Armenian style was built in memory of his dear mother. Mr. Tchakejian, a respected and admired person by all sectors of the Armenian community as well as the Egyptian leaders, is a committed individual and has given very generous support to our schools in the Near East, to Haigazian College and the AMAA. He is a true Armenian, with the capacity of creating a solid community spirit and promoting unity among the various groups.

II. The Armenian Evangelical Church of Alexandria

Sunday in Egypt is a working day with



Vahram Khounagian

all stores and businesses in operation. It can be noted therefore that Sunday is a bad day for church attendance. In Cairo, a small group of believers worship at 12:00 noon and in Alexandria, a couple of dozen meet at 7:30 p.m. on Sundays. The Sunday school makes it possible for the lay evangelist to travel the distance between Cairo and Alexandria to preach in both churches.

The beautiful Alexandria church was built by the support, inspiration, and leadership of Mr. Yervant Kutchukian, whose brother Hagop was another pillar. Yervant, whose personal Christian experience became a strong motivation to serve Christ, did much lay preaching during the period he was in Egypt.

We thank God for raising laborers in near and distant places to make the Good News of the Gospel available for the enrichment of His creatures.

GENEROUS RESPONSE TO AMAA'S ETHIOPIA APPEAL

We are grateful to all our people who responded to our appeal and contributed towards our assistance program to Ethiopians exposed to famine.

We have already sent \$15,000 to the United Church Board for World Ministries to be used for emergency relief efforts in Ethiopia. Our check was issued to the Division of World Service of the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM) attention of Lloyd Van Vactor. The UCBWM has two workers in

Ethiopia laboring jointly with the Church World Service.

Our contribution was designated to buy the following for the famine-stricken families:

1,000 Blankets (\$4.00 each)	\$4,000
50 Tents (\$110 each)	5,500
20,000 lbs. (10 tons) High Nutrient Supplementary Food	4,000
4,000 lbs. (2 tons) Rice	560
4,000 lbs. (2 tons) Cornmeal	480
4,000 lbs. (2 tons) Beans	560

The United Church Board for World Ministries is working hand-in-hand with the Christian Relief and Development Association and has direct access to the drought and famine-stricken areas.

We were delighted and reassured by the following Testimony of Reliability: The Churches of God in Christ, a black Pentecostal group, have visited the area and found the program so effective that they have visited the UCBWM Headquarters and delivered a check for \$25,000 for relief, stating that they were too small a group to have their own workers there but were satisfied that money was reaching its destination.

MERDINIAN SCHOOL BOARD HONORS FOUNDING MEMBERS

A diverse but congenial group of about seventy-five guests enjoyed an evening of fine hospitality at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vahe Ashkarian of Torrance, as they celebrated the progress of the Charlotte and Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School on Saturday, February 9. The event was sponsored by the Board of Directors and planned by the Finance Committee in recognition of the Founding Members of the school.

Mr. Sebu Tashjian, Chairman of the Finance Committee, welcomed the guests and introduced Mrs. Alice Haig, Chairman of the Board, who thanked the donors and reported briefly on the progress and future plans of the school. She also acknowledged the special contribution of artist Mr. Harry Garo, who had designed a unique school logo. This logo appeared for the first time on a plaque of appreciation presented during the evening to each of the Founding Mem-

bers who have pledged to donate three thousand dollars or more each over a three-year period.

The Merdinian Evangelical School is now in its third year of operation and looks forward to relocation in larger, permanent quarters in the near future, to accommodate its growing needs and to better serve the Armenian-American community. It welcomes the support of all those who are interested in offering services or financial contributions. For information about the school or for donations of any kind, please call the school office at (818) 762-1022 or the AMAA Headquarters at (201) 265-2607 or (818) 782-0257.

ARMENIAN SCHOOLS WILL HOLD CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The four Armenian day schools in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania: The Hovnanian Armenian School of New Milford, New Jersey; The Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School of Bayside, New York; The St. Illuminators Day School of Woodside, New York; and The Armenian Sisters Academy in Radnor, Pennsylvania, will sponsor a one-day-long Armenian Cultural Festival to be held at the Garden State Arts Center on September 14, 1985.

It is kindly requested from all Armenian organizations in the Northeastern U.S.A. to consider the date of SEPTEMBER 14, 1985 RESERVED and to abstain from planning any event for that date in order that all Armenians may participate in this event.

DR. PETER DOGHRAMJI ELECTED AS CONFERENCE MINISTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji, 55, of Havertown, PA, a Board Member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the current Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, was elected to the position of Conference Minister and President of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. In his new position, Dr. Doghramji will become the spiritual leader and the chief executive of



The Rev. Peter B. Doghramji, Ph.D

the 78,000-member Conference churches in the seven Pennsylvania counties in and around Philadelphia, PA.

Voting on Friday afternoon, May 3, the 450 clergy and lay delegates representing the 217 congregations of the Conference elected Dr. Doghramji to the post, in effect elevating him from being assistant to the Conference Minister, Dr. Shetler, who retired in April.

Dr. Doghramji is active in local and national mission work, a popular leader of Bible study, and involved with Armenian Christian concerns in the United States. He is an Ex-Officio Member of the Board of Directors of the AMAA by virtue of being the Moderator of AEUNA. He has served several three-year terms previously. Before joining the Conference staff, Dr. Doghramji was pastor for nine years of the Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.

Born in Aleppo, Syria, Dr. Doghramji received his high school diploma from Aleppo College in 1948; the B.A. degree in 1953 from the American University of Beirut; the B.D. degree in 1953 from the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon; the Th. M. degree in 1962 from Harvard Divinity School; and the Ph. D. degree in 1970 from Princeton Theological Seminary (magna cum laude). He speaks Armenian, Arabic, Turkish, French, English, and has a reading knowledge of Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, and German.

Ordained in 1953, Dr. Doghramji spent the next three years in Jezireh, Syria, as pastor, principal of an elementary school, missionary to Assyrian refugees, and judicatory executive. From 1956-1969, he was Professor of Religion and Ethics, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy, and Chaplain at Aleppo College; and interim pastor of the National Evangelical Church. Then, between 1961 and 1966, he was President of the College.

From 1969-1970, Dr. Doghramji was Associate Professor of Theology at the Near East School of Theology (NEST), as well as field work director and secretary of the faculty.

Dr. Doghramji married Mary Bedikian in 1953 and they have three sons — Karl and Paul, both medical doctors, and James, a medical student.

The President of the AMAA takes pleasure in extending congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Doghramji on behalf of the members of the Board of Directors of the AMAA, executive officers, and staff.

DR. BYRON HARTUNIAN RECORDS TV HEALTH SPECIALS

Dr. Byron Hartunian, orthopedic surgeon in Cambridge, MA, has recently recorded two cablevision shows for the TV series Health Guard. This public education series, sponsored by the Arlington Visiting Nurses Association, will be aired in the town of Arlington, Lexington, and Winchester over the next few months. The topics are "Children's Sport; Reducing the Risk of Injury" and "Exercise, Stress and Your Body," the latter dealing with adult physical fitness.

Dr. Hartunian is in private practice and is on the active staff of Santa Maria Hospital and Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton. His special interests include reconstructive joint surgery for severely disabling arthritis and sports medicine.

Dr. Hartunian is the son of our own Reverend Vartan Hartunian of the First Armenian Church in Belmont, MA. He is married to Ellen Fletcher and they are the proud parents of 3 children: Margo, Jennifer and Douglas.

**PILGRIM ARMENIAN HONORS
GASPAR AND AZNIVE
MAGARIAN**



Mr. and Mrs. Gaspar Magarian

At a well attended and impressive Testimonial Banquet, the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno paid tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Magarian on May 5 for seventy years of loving devotion, dedication, loyalty, and active service to their church. Several members of the church expressed words of affection and gratitude and the Church presented them with a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the congregation.

The AMAA joined in the tribute by presenting Mr. and Mrs. Magarian with a letter of congratulations and commendation specially engraved on a plaque. The text of the letter reads as follows:

Dear Christian Friends:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We take great pleasure in joining the celebration of your long years of Christian Service to your church and community.

We in the AMAA circle appreciate the fact that you always went beyond the boundaries of your local church and community and touched the lives of countless people all over the world through your stewardship, loving labors and Christian witness for the AMAA.

Indeed, over the years, you helped undergird the worldwide ministries of the AMAA in many creative ways. Thank you for your important contributions towards the fulfillment of our mission to serve the Lord by acting on the needs of "the least" of our brothers.

At this time, we especially acknowledge with sincere appreciation . . . your tactful and effective endeavors

in promoting the purposes of the AMAA among your friends;
... your liberal financial support of the outreach of the AMAA;
... your fine and tireless efforts in enhancing the missionary spirit and involvement of your church family; and
... your legal professional counsel in guiding benevolent individuals to help the Association through special donations of estate gifts and bequests.

Above all, however, we are thankful for the inspiration and encouragement you have provided to the AMAA executive staff through your loyal friendship, sincere fellowship and faithful prayers.

We pray that the Lord will make you a greater blessing so that more people will see the sign of God's love in your life and works.

May His grace and peace be always with you and your loved ones.

On behalf of the AMAA Board of Directors, its President, Mr. Nazar Daghljan, and the Executive Officers, I salute you.

In Christ,
G.H. Chopourian
Executive Director

**MR. AND MRS. SARKIS
HANENIAN RECOGNIZED FOR
SELFLESS SERVICE**

Mr. Sarkis and Mrs. Pailig Hanenian of Dollar des Ormeaux, Quebec (Canada), were recognized by the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal for the quarter of a century of selfless services they rendered to the church. The recognition was made during a special banquet organized by the Ladies Auxiliary of the First Church on December 15, 1984. Mr. Anton Torunian, the Moderator of the church, expressed words of gratitude on behalf of the congregation and presented the couple with a beautiful silver tea set.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanenian, longtime supporters of the missionary outreach of the AMAA, have been volunteering their valuable services to the First Church ever since its founding. Mr. Hanenian, who is an accomplished lay preacher, has been serving the Church as a Board Member,



Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Hanenian holding the tea set gift presented to them.

Deacon, and Treasurer, as well as filling the pulpit during the absence of a fulltime pastor. Mrs. Hanenian, on the other hand, has been faithfully bringing her contribution to the life of the church by serving as the Organist, Choir Director, Sunday School Teacher, Editor of the Church Bulletin and as a leading member of the Ladies Auxiliary.

We join the First Church in praising the Lord for the devotion and services of the Hanenians, and pray that God will bless their continued labors for His glory.

**LEON GIRIDLIAN CELEBRATES
100TH BIRTHDAY**

Leon Giridlian of Altadena, CA, a Life Member, Endowed Funder and a generous supporter of the AMAA, celebrated his 100th birthday on March 23, 1985. In marking the happy occasion, the Armenian Cilicia Congregational Church of Pasadena, CA, honored him during a special banquet held at the Brookside Golf Club Restaurant. The banquet was originally planned to pay tribute also to Manoug Evkhanian of Pasadena, CA, who was called to his Eternal Home just a week before he was to celebrate his 100th birthday on March 15.

It had been planned to honor both Giridlian and Evkhanian because of the similarities in their lives. Their birthdays are only a week apart; both were born in Turkey and had come to the United States as immigrants; both were saved miraculously during the Turkish atrocities by adventurous escapes; both were in the rug business; and both had been founding members of the Cilicia church through which they have served the Lord and

their community with devotion and faithfulness.

Like many of their contemporaries, Giridlian and Evkhanian attended missionary schools before they came to this country and went into the rug business. Evkhanian owned and managed the Pasadena Rug Mart, which his son now operates. Giridlian was employed by Kazoyan Bros., a Pasadena carpeting and Oriental rug firm.



Leon Giridlian

Giridlian did not feel ready to retire at 80, but his wife insisted because his work required physical effort. Two years ago, he lost his wife of 65 years. Fiercely independent, he continued to live alone. Almost daily, he takes a walk to visit his daughter, Nina Gedigian, but he hastens to return to his Altadena home on Crag Avenue. Taking an interest in many things may be one of his secrets for happiness and health. He doesn't want to sit around "listening to my arteries harden." He plays the mandolin, violin, foot-pump organ and the piano—but just for his own pleasure. Always the humorist, when asked if he played by ear, he said, "No, my ears aren't long enough."

He is studying classical Armenian and keeps himself apprised of the latest events and developments in the world by reading the Arizona Magazine, National Geographic, Smithsonian magazine and the publications of the Metropolitan Opera Guild of New York, which he supports. And he reads the Bible, which provides him with the spiritual strength to meet the years as they come, and to trust the Goodness and Providence of God.

The entire AMAA family joins in praising God for the life of our dear

centenarian brother Leon Giridlian, wishing him many more years full of health, happiness and fulfillment.

**REV. WILLIAM J. HAMMANN
CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ORDINATION**



The Rev. William J. Hammann

The United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church, Troy, NY, and the First Lutheran Church, Albany, NY, celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Rev. William J. Hammann's ordination into the Christian ministry. The celebration of the happy milestone took place on Sunday, May 5, 1985 at a special service of praise at the First Lutheran Church, followed by a reception in honor of the Rev. Hammann. A large number of friends and former and current parishioners of the Rev. Hammann, as well as representatives of churches and organizations, attended the celebration. The AMAA was represented at the festive event by its immediate past president, George Bezirgian, M.D., who conveyed the congratulations and best wishes of the Board of Directors and the entire membership of the Association.

**NORAYR KHERLOPIAN NAMED
MAN OF ACHIEVEMENT**

Architect Norayr Kherlopian of Watertown, MA., the son of the late Rev. Dikran Kherlopian, was recently presented the "Man of Achievement" Award from Cambridge, England, for his work on a study of a Channel Tunnel project between England and France. Congratulations Norayr and best wishes for higher achievements.

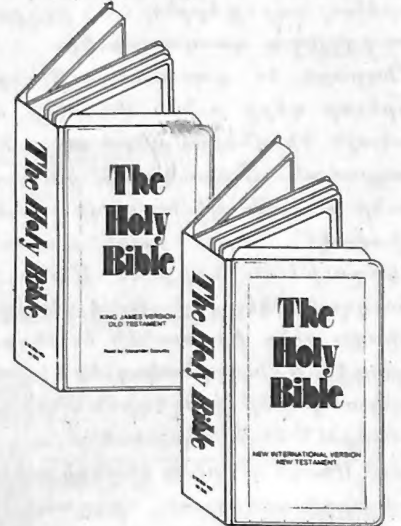
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OBITUARIES

Sympathies extended: — The Board of Directors, the Executive Director, the Field Directors and the staff, all of whom are acquainted with the deceased, their families and relatives through the AMAA records, extend their sincere and deep sympathies to the immediate kin, relatives and friends of the deceased, whose obituaries, transmitted to the Editor by pastors, friends or relatives, are recorded below.

"Let not your heart be troubled," said our Lord, "ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you. . . , I will come again, and receive you unto myself." (Jo. 14:1-3). This is the hope by which we should all live.

JULIETTE TOOTIKIAN (1934 - 1985)



Juliette Tootikian

Juliette Tootikian, the beautiful and gracious wife of the Rev. Vahan Tootikian, entered her eternal rest on Wednesday, May 15, 1985, in the Whittier Hospital, California, after a long bout with the common ailment of cancer.

Her funeral services were held in the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood on Saturday, May 19, 1985, following which the interment took place at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Hollywood Hills. The services, which were attended by over five hundred relatives and friends, was tangible evidence of the high esteem in which she was held. Participating in the service were the Reverends Berj Djambazian, Abraham Chaparian, Gregory Heleblan, Norair Melidonian, Edward Tovmassian, Herald Hassessian, Garabed Tilkian, Hagop Janbazian and Father Kourken Yarialian. Mrs. Martha Sarian and Mrs. Lucine Agabian Hubbard brought in their musical contribution.

Juliette Tootikian, born on July 10, 1934 in Aleppo, Syria to Nazar and the late Mrs. Alice Nazarian, was the third of five children richly blessed with a Christian lifestyle and full of the Armenian spirit.

Upon graduation from Haigazian College of Beirut after completion of her education at Oussoomnassiratz, Life and American Girls' High Schools, Juliette was married to the Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian on August 18, 1959. God blessed this happy couple with three daughters

—Ann, Alice and Jacqueline.

Juliette's labors, hidden because of her humble and modest ways, were many, extensive and effective. In the first place, she was an ideal *yeretzgin*. She saw to it that her husband was the more visible, herself working quietly but effectively behind the scenes—a most prudent posture. She had her eyes open to every need, task, challenge in the church and kept her husband not only informed, but laid down suggestions as well. This style was used in the churches they served in Damascus (1959-60), Cairo (1960-1965), Watertown (US) (1966-1975) and Detroit. In the latter town she was the driving force and backbone of the Saturday Armenian School of the Armenian Congregational Church, sponsored by its Armenian Heritage Committee, which drew students from all the Armenian community sectors. In Cairo, Juliette was the Sunday School superintendent of the church for five years and in Damascus she taught in the Mokasset School, a school primarily for children of higher government officials.

Juliette Tootikian was an excellent homemaker. She tended her home meticulously, efficiently, artfully and cheerfully. Giving herself quietly and sacrificially to the wellbeing of the family, she brought richness and fullness of life, not only to the members but also to the community whose friendship she won. True friendship and sincerity being native to Juliette little children, youth and adults caught her spirit, for she loved, cared and gave of herself without expectations.

Juliette was a versatile person of many talents. She combined in her person the aptitudes of a writer, singer, actor, designer, cook, organizer and humble worker—all contained within an unassuming personality. Some of these talents she kept secret even from her friends because of her humility. This writer has had access to two of her many poems. One is entitled "To My Loving Children" but is not a "mushy" expression of her motherly emotions but rather a challenge to "accept and live the Christly life" which assures the crown of victory. A second poem is composed of 49 stanzas, the saga of her story with husband Vahan from their first meeting to Christmas 1983, addressed to her three daughters. In this particular area she appears to have taken after her grandfather,

Ashur Youssef (a cousin of intellectual A.A. Bedikian), and her poet sister who has three published books.

Yeretzgin Tootikian was a woman of dignity, courage and nobility of character whose faith in God's goodness gave her a positive outlook on life. Because of her personal relationship with the Master of Life, she mustered tremendous faith and courage. In the past few months prior to her death she faced a daily struggle with a devastating disease and a losing battle with death, but she pulled it off with grandeur of spirit. Until the very end she never felt herself beaten and defeated. Not only did she struggle gallantly before laying down the burden of this flesh, but she brought hope with her testimony to the disheartened and the weary and pleaded with all to be courageous. Awed with this strength of faith her husband confessed to this writer: "I feel ashamed when I compare my faith to hers."

Now that she has made her transition from her home on earth to her home in heaven, she can say with the apostle, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness."

We have lost a dynamic, enthusiastic, responsible, loving and caring angel on earth with whom, we feel confident, God will be pleased and open opportunities of fellowship of which we cannot even conceive.

The AMAA members of the Board of Directors, its President, Mr. Nazar Daghlani, as well as other officers, executives and staff extend very sincere sympathies to our brother in Christ, Vahan, and daughters Ann, Alice and Jacqueline as well as to her immediate kin. Her life was short but was augmented by the fullness of her life. May yours be both long and rich, however, all you her beloved ones.

THE REV. HAMPARTZOOM H. HAMPARTZOUMIAN

The Reverend Hampartzoum Hampartzoumian joined the heavenly host on February 14, 1985. He died in his hospital bed in Los Angeles.

"The Rev. Hampartzoumian," writes the Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, who knew him in Cairo, "was one of the most dedicated and saintly Christians I have ever met . . . all because of what he was inside." The Rev. Tootikian con-



The Rev. Hampartzoum Hampartzoumian

tinues, "He was a quiet, unassuming, unpretentious humble servant of God, a tranquil character who never strove for place or power but firmly and gently maintained what he believed to be right in the sight of God."

The Rev. Hampartzoum ministered to the Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church of Cairo, Egypt, from 1926-1960. Members of the congregation whom we have met have testified to his being a dedicated shepherd, an unselfish pastor, an eloquent and prophetic preacher. He was educated at Oberlin Theological Seminary where he developed into a true scholar, interested in truth rather than in popular pronouncements.

"He had unusual moral muscle, a tremendous capacity for spiritual strength," writes the Rev. Tootikian in interpreting his inner strength. "He was possessed of a quality of life over which harsh circumstances of life had no power. The secret of his spiritual power, his effectiveness, and exemplary life grew out of his daily intimate relationship with God. He drew his power from meditation and prayer."

Son Armen, acknowledging receipt of AMAA's letter of sympathy, made some parenthetical remarks on his father which are important to reproduce: "Father was a persistent and indefatigable fighting soldier for Christ. He not only preached, but lived, bore witness and demonstrated that Christianity is not a mere credal affirmation or ritual but life, more abundant life (Elan Vital), eternal life. It is a fact that it is not through disputes over rituals and affirmations that Christ becomes an inseparable part of our minds and souls. The experience of centuries should have taught us that lesson."

"Father tried to live a Christian life through faith and life. His 'yes' was 'Yes' and his 'no' was 'No'. His unselfish loving spirit was the same for all. He lived as though the happiness of others was his own and shared the pain and sadness of the littlest one. He loved his enemies and prayed for those who persecuted him . . . But Father never turned bitter against

those who incited hatred but continued to love. He continued in his lowly and humble course of serving the Savior who had called him. . . . Father never did once, as far as I can remember, seek any form of recognition. In his humble way, his life's work was enough gratification."

The AMAA Board and its Executives extend their sincere sympathies to his wife, Nvart, and his children—Harry, Armen, and Arpine.

May God raise a prophet like unto him for our people.

MARY DOKOUZIAN

Mary Dokouzian, 80, died on January 9, 1985. Funeral services were held at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York on Friday, January 11, with Pastor Hassessian officiating. Interment was at Cedar Grove Cemetery. She is survived by her son, Jack, daughter Sarah, and seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

REV. SARKIS PAPAJIAN

Rev. Sarkis Papajian, the son of Bedros and Vartanoush Papajian, was born in Chunkoosh, Armenia, on Oct. 3, 1895 and came to the United States in 1913, where he received a B.A. degree from Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio in 1926 and a Bachelor of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1929. Following his graduation he served in the Evangelical Reformed Churches in Western Pennsylvania, was married to Rosalie Papajian in 1932, and in 1943 moved to Fowler, California, where Rev. Papajian served the Armenian Congregational Church until 1954. By his personal integrity and good humor he created an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation among the churches of Fowler.

Through the years, the Rev. Papajian endeared himself to members of the Armenian community. A noted writer, he authored numerous articles and books, his most recent writings being *A Brief History of Armenia* and *Chunkoosh*.

He is survived by his wife, Rosalie, and daughter Florence.

KEGHAM ARAM MISSISSYAN, PH.D.

The tragic news of the death of Dr. Kegham Mississyan on April 21, 1985 came as a shock to all those who knew him. While providing a message on the emotional question of the Armenian genocide entitled "The Agony of Losing" from the pulpit of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA, he had a massive heart attack and was pronounced dead at the hospital, which did



Kegham A. Mississyan, Ph.D.

everything possible to save him.

Born on February 4, 1915 in Marash, to Aram and Noyemzar, Dr. Mississyan was the third child who grew up in and attended school in Aleppo. That was because, following the Great Genocide of the Armenians by the Turks during World War I, his parents were driven out of their ancestral fatherland by the Turks into the Arab lands, who finally found refuge in Aleppo, Syria, and lived "hand to mouth" as most families who were driven out did. In line with his parents' motto for him, "to make his living with his head," he attended school and received his Associate in Science diploma from Aleppo College, Aleppo, Syria, and began his teaching career at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School in Aleppo. In 1938, when the district of Sandjak was severed from Syria and given to Turkey, the Armenians of Musa Dagh who had, in 1915, fought the Turkish army for 40 days—which event is immortalized by Franz Werfel in his *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*—were living under the threat of Turkish retaliation. In spite of this, to share the fate of his fellow Armenians, he left Bethel School and went to Bitias, a village in Musa Dagh, and became the dean of the Armenian Evangelical School there. However, in the summer of 1939, the Armenians of Musa Dagh had to abandon their land and settle in Syria and Lebanon. He became the principal of the Bethel School for two years from 1941 to 1943, and after teaching at the Mekhitarist College from 1943 to 1945, he left Aleppo and went to study at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. In June 1948, he received his B.A. with honors. In 1949, he became the dean of Central High School in Beirut and its principal from 1950 to 1956. In September, 1956, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He received his M.A. in 1960, a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship in 1961-62, and his Ph.D. in philosophy of education in 1970. In 1964, he became an associate professor of education

at West Chester State College, professor of education in 1979, and chairman of the Department of secondary education and Professional Studies beginning 1972. He was the chairman of the Armenian Inter-Church Committee of Philadelphia, 1964-65, cofounder and vice president of the Armenian Historical Research Association, 1961-67, and its president since 1968. On April 24, 1965, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration (1915-65) of the genocide of the Armenians by the Turks, he was the chairman of the Inter-Church Committee which received a proclamation from The Honorable James H.J. Tate, Mayor of Philadelphia, proclaiming Saturday, April 24, 1965 as Armenian Martyrs Memorial Day. He was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, Philosophy of Education Society, Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties, and Pennsylvania Association for Higher Education. His biography has appeared in Volume 9, 1973, of the "Dictionary of International Biography," whose editors awarded him a certificate of merit "for distinguished service to teaching and school administration." It has also appeared in "Men of Achievement, 1973; "Leaders in Education," 1974; and the "International Who's Who in Community Service," 1975, as well as the "Bicentennial Edition of Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans," 1976, "in recognition of past achievements and outstanding service to Community and State" and in the "International Register of Profiles," 1976, North American Edition.

More than his amazing credentials, we had in Dr. Mississyan a patriotic Armenian, a fine evangelical, a competent teacher and a good man.

His grasp of the Armenian language and its smooth and fluent use in speech and pen was captivating. His understanding of the history of Armenians, with all the ramifications of problems, troubles, short-comings, challenges and needs was balanced, yet deep. He was more than a linguist or politician—he put his heart and soul into his thinking.

As an evangelical, he had dreams. He hoped for the revitalization of the Armenian evangelical churches worldwide. He carried a deep-seated desire that evangelism would once again bring revivals among our people, and the zeal of Armenians would again burn in their hearts like a hot flame. Perhaps it was such thoughts that led him to think, in the last few months prior to his death, of serving Haigazian College, perhaps as president, since finding one under the current conditions in Beirut is practically impossible. He visualized that he could have the College give active leadership to coordinate community life, recruit students by sundry means and introduce an MA program, something he had managed to do easily at West Chester College. He had, throughout his life, been

teacher, principal, professor, and head of the Education Department at West Chester College—competent, punctual, perfectionist, understanding, but above all, dedicated to quality education.

Dr. Mississyan was also a good man. He was sincere, easy-going yet firm, helpful, sympathetic—identifying himself with the sorrows of those whom he knew. The report in the *Philadelphia Daily News* of April 26, 1985 quoting the Rev. Nuyujukian might be cited as proof of his emotional ties to people:

"He began his speech about the massacre talking about 'the anguish of losing.' He cited the example of a 1960 bus accident in Beirut, when 20 of his former students perished in a single accident. He said that when he had received the news in the United States, he had undergone great depression. When he started his talk with that instance, he identified himself with it, and he couldn't carry it; he was emotionally stricken." Blessed be your memory, Kegham, our friend. May your sisters and your nephews and nieces be strengthened by the knowledge that you were a loving, caring and sharing person.

The AMAA, which benefited from your leadership in the Haigazian College Board of Trustees during its years in the East Coast, salutes you.

ZEPHYR TATARIAN

Mrs. Zephyr Tatarian, daughter of Krikor and Perlan Gabriel, and wife of the late Dr. Hovsep Tatarian, formerly of Union City, N.J., passed on to eternal life on Feb. 10, 1985, at her home in Holly Hill, FL, where she had been living with her son, Gregory, since 1971.

Mrs. Tatarian was born in Union City, N.J., and lived there until her retirement from the Methodist Board of Missions, where she had worked for 16 years.

She was gifted with a beautiful lyric soprano voice which she used for the glory of God and gave her audiences joy and delight for many years. Her vivacious and charming personality endeared her to young and old alike. Knowing her was loving her.

Mrs. Tatarian was formerly a member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of West New York, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the Philharmonic Society of Jersey City, a charter member of the Women's Auxiliary of Christ Hospital, Past Matron of the Malta Chapter #154 of the Order of Eastern Star, the Women's Club of Hudson County, and a 50-year member of the Women's Central Committee of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, having received her 50th year pin with joy.

In 1971, Mrs. Tatarian moved to Holly Hill, FL, where she became an active member of the First Christian Church of Ormond Beach, the Daytona Beach Symphony Guild, the Playhouse Guild, and the Friday Morning

Musicale.

Survivors include her son, Gregory, a sister, Arshaloyse Madenigian, and three nieces, Shnorh Gasner, Eunice Stevens, and Constance Karmel, also several grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

NOUVER BETH AJEMIAN



Nouver B. Ajemian

Born on January 12, 1928 in Shemlan, Lebanon, Nouver Beth Ajemian learned to love and appreciate the beauty and variety of God's natural world at an early age, and the devotional life at the Ajemian home led her to commit her life to Jesus Christ.

A precocious child, she graduated from the British School for Girls at age 14½, distinguishing herself for her academic achievements and student leadership. Too young to enter college, she spent a year teaching piano, an instrument she had mastered at an early age.

Following graduation from Beirut College for Women, where she acquired a love for English history and literature, she taught for ten years at the Armenian Evangelical Central High School, where she came to be loved and honored by the students.

In the mid-50s, Nouver began studying stenography and other clerical skills and was employed as secretary by a British corporation. Nouver's ability to work well with people and her sharp mind did not go unnoticed by her superiors, who promoted her to an administrative position.

Throughout her years as a teacher and administrator, she was also active in church and Sunday School work, spent much joyful time with her relatives and friends, and gave her parents and family her generous loving support as a faithful daughter.

In the late 1960's, Nouver decided to join her parents, who had recently moved to Los Angeles, and worked as a manager in a business firm and in an administrative position at Hughes Aircraft.

Nouver Ajemian's life story transcends the finite dimensions of the physical world because her lively spirit and generous nature which participated in the joys and sorrows of others add up to a greater sum than the actual 57 years she lived on this planet.

Nouver's faith in Christ was not limited to mere words or lip service. She lived by Christ's commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." She did love others, gave of herself unconditionally, joyfully and exuberantly in time, money, talents, laughter, encouragement, and her care.

Nouver is survived by her father, Baghdassar; mother, Marie; and sister, Yevnigue Shahinian.

GARRY A. GERTMENIAN (1903-1985)



Garry A. Gertmenian

Garry A. Gertmenian was born in Hadjin on August 25, 1903 and passed away on January 7, 1985.

The family was exiled to the Arabian desert from 1916 to 1920. He came to the United States in 1921 with his brother Henry. He worked as a brick layer and owned grocery businesses in Pasadena. Much of his efforts were dedicated to bringing his younger brothers and sisters to America. He married Virginia Krikorian on Aug. 1, 1930 and they had three children: Albert, Jeannette and Garry, Jr. He was associated as a buyer for Pasadena Produce, Gertmenian's Market and Good Foods and retired at age 69.

Throughout his life he was active, dedicated and supportive of Armenian organizations. He served as President of the Hadjintzis for many years; was active in the AGBU and the Knights of Vartan.

Garry enjoyed his friends, music and gardening. He liked singing old Armenian songs and reciting Armenian poetry with which he serenaded numerous nieces, nephews and his much loved grandchildren during family gatherings.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia; three children; two brothers, Henry of Oakland and Seb of Pasadena; three sisters, Ruth Mardian, Lucy Avakian and Alice Kalousdian. His brother Manuel passed away in 1973.

DONNA GULEZIAN SIDERI AND HER CHILD

Donna Gulezian Sideri and her child (eight months in the womb) died unexpectedly and suddenly on March 20, 1985. She was 22 years of age. Her unborn child, a boy, died soon after his mother's blood circulation ceased.

Donna is the daughter of Haig and Gladys Gulezian of North Andover, MA. and sister of Sandra (Mrs. Viken Manoogian), Naomi, David and Jonathan. Donna and Eric Sideri were married on March 22, 1983, and have a daughter, Gina Maria, who is one year of age.

A service of Resurrection was held for Donna and her son on Friday, March 22, 1985 at the Cataudella Funeral Home in Lawrence, MA. Pastors Vahan Hartunian and Joanne G. Hartunian officiated.

Donna's youngest brother, Jonathan, read the following which he had written:

I liked to be with Donna
because she made people laugh.
She played cards with me
and took me shopping.
She always helped me
with my homework.
I'm really sad she passed away.
I'm going to miss her.

Donna's sister, Naomi, read a poem which she had composed. Parts of her tribute are reproduced below:

My sister Donna was like no other.
She was a wife, friend, and a mother.

In my worst nightmare
I never thought this day would come.
But she's with her baby now;
they are together in God's Kingdom.

I wish I had time to say
All the things I feel today.
But no poem can describe
The feelings I have inside.
I will always be thinking of you
Because, Donna, I love you.

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

Fermanian, Mr. Haig
San Diego, CA
Betahyan, Mrs. Zvart
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Harutune, Elizabeth Jones

December 1, 1984

***Boyajian, Mr. Paul**
Providence, RI Dec. 9, 1984

***Haroutunian, Mrs. Makroohi A.**
Los Angeles, CA Dec. 11, 1984

Kazarian, Mr. Norman
Newport Beach, CA Feb. 8, 1985

***Malkasian, Mrs. George**
Longmeadow, MA Feb. 8, 1985

***Turner, Mr. Harry M.**
Baltimore, MD Feb. 10, 1985

Samuelian, Mr. John Feb. 13, 1985
Avanozian, Mr. Benon

Bs. Aires, Argentina Feb. 22, 1985
Dedeyan, Mr. Takvor

Bs. Aires, Argentina Feb. 22, 1985
Evkhanian, Mr. Manoug

Pasadena, CA Mar. 8, 1985
Setrakian, Ari March 1985

Thomas, Mrs. John
Hatboro, PA March 1985

Eskandarian, Mrs. Zabel
Philadelphia, PA Mar. 17, 1985

***Yessayan, Mrs. Victoria R.**
Largo, IL Mar. 22, 1985

Garabedian, Mr. Kersam
Oak Park, MI Mar. 24, 1985

***Marsoobian, Mr. Michael**
Jackson Hts., NY Mar. 24, 1985

Kabasakalian, Mr. Mesrob
Rockaway, NJ Mar. 24, 1985

Dermenjian, Mr. Charles
Belmont, MA Mar. 28, 1985

Juknavorian, Mrs. Arousiag
Watertown, MA Apr. 6, 1985

Proodian, Mary
Watertown, MA Apr. 10, 1985

Kalashian, Mr. Daniel Doraked
Worcester, MA Apr. 12, 1985

Timourian, Mrs. Berjouhi
Pompano Beach, FL Apr. 12, 1985

***Daglian, Mrs. Elizabeth**
Bronx, NY Apr. 13, 1985

Nason, Mr. George
Malden, MA Apr. 19, 1985

Sahatjian, Mrs. Roxy Elizabeth
Apr. 20, 1985

Mississyan, Dr. Kegham
Broomall, PA Apr. 21, 1985

Sarkissian, Mrs. Altoon
Worcester, MA May 11, 1985

***Tootikian, Mrs. Juliette**
Whittier, CA May 16, 1985

Eleazarian, Mr. Nathan
Fresno, CA May 27, 1985

***Memorial gifts designated to AMAA**

****Gifts of Bequests made to AMAA**

"Train up your children in the way they should go, even when they are old they will not depart from it."

Prov. 22:6

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to Forest. Exit, take jug handle turn, cross over Route 4 to Headquarters
as above.

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